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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 7

SPRINGFIELD, IL, Sept. 8, 2008 – Illinois had almost 7.3 million registered voters as of Labor Day, according to a statewide, centralized voter registration database at the State Board of Elections.

For the Nov. 4 general election, the traditional registration deadline is Oct. 7.

“History tells us there will be a surge in voter registrations as the traditional registration deadline approaches,” said Daniel W. White, Executive Director of the State Board of Elections. “The official total of 7,304,563 registered for the Feb. 5 Illinois primary election established a new record high of registrations for a primary.”

White also noted the turnout for the Feb. 5 Illinois primary shattered the previous record for a primary turnout by 17 percent.

The requirements for a person to register are: be a citizen of the United States; be at least 18 years of age by Election Day; and have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

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Although Oct. 7 is the traditional last day to register, Grace Period Registration is an extension of the traditional deadline. It allows for the registration of voters and for a change of address at the office of the election authority. However, it also places limitations on how these registrants can vote.

For more information on the election, contact election authorities in each county or visit the Board's website www.elections.il.gov.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state constitutional agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the state.

VOTER TURNOUT

Illinois State Board of Elections Voter Registration and Percentage Turnout Illinois Presidential Elections

<u>Year</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Total Vote</u>	<u>Percentage Turnout</u>
2004	7,499,488	5,350,493	71%
2000	7,129,026	4,932,192	69%
1996	6,663,301	4,418,270	66%
1992	6,600,358	5,164,357	78%
1988	6,356,940	4,697,192	74%
1984	6,470,438	4,969,330	77%
1980	6,230,332	4,868,890	78%

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